

Miners and Mechanics Bank Building
13 North Main Street
Carbondale
Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5153

HABS
PA,
35-CARB,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
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STATE Pennsylvania		COUNTY Lackawanna	TOWN OR VICINITY Carbondale
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Miners and Mechanics Bank Building			HABS NO. PA-5153
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 13 North Main Street			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1915		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This design includes many different orders of Classic Revival Architecture. All these elements combine to present a strong design, suitable for the image a financial institution would want to exhibit. See attached for history.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The S.E. and S.W. walls are limestone, the N.W. wall brick. Load bearing walls with wood joists, and one row of steel beams on the first floor.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 2 stories tall. 3 bays on front, 5 bays on the side.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The main entrance is flanked on either side by Ionic columns. Doric pilasters separate each bay. A denticulated cornice is crowned with a stone balustrade.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished.			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The documentation for this structure was compiled by the City of Carbondale, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This record was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Robert S. Lange, HABS historian.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Robert S. Lange			DATE September 1980

MINERS AND MECHANICS BANK
CARBONDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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The Miners and Mechanics Bank was originally organized by John J. Jermyn, a coal operator from Scranton. He and a number of friends secured the original charter in 1871, capitalizing the bank for 50,000 dollars. In 1918 a former bank clerk and cashier, James Paul bought out the Jermyn interest, thus gaining control of the bank.

The Miners and Mechanics Bank was a prosperous institution with some of Carbondale's more prominent families being associated with it. Between 1921 and 1931 the bank's stocks averaged \$50 per share with some sales recorded at \$1,200 to \$1,600 per share. The bank had a considerable surplus and undivided profits which at one time reached \$1,200,000. During this decade the bank had a record of divided payments ranging from 40 to 80 percent.

By 1931 the bank had 94 stockholders with James Paul the largest, controlling 64 percent. George H. Paul, his brother and the bank's vice president, also held a small bloc. John H. Reese, a director, held another 10 percent. The Hendricks estate, represented on the board by L. A. Bassett and W. T. Colville, owned another 10 percent. The balance was held by the directors and several of Carbondale's pioneer families.

In May, 1931, there was a five-day "run" on the institution. Within a matter of days the bank closed its doors. James Paul explained the closing was not a sign of failure but a move taken to protect it's 9,000 depositors. He promised that the bank would be reopened in time, with business resuming on a larger scale. Unfortunately, the bank never did reopen.

Depositor's were finally paid a dividend of \$ 147,088 , representing 5,52 percent, under a court order on January 4, 1946.

The bank was the first one in Lackawanna County to have a stock market ticker in the President's office.

After it closed, the building went through a succession of owners, the last being the Carbondale Area School District with a mortgage held by the Jewish Theological Seminary of New York.

The Miners and Mechanics Bank is a significant example of Classic Revival Architecture. Built of stone, this imposing structure is divided into three bays across the front and five bays down the left side. The main entrance is flanked on either side by Roman columns with Ionic capitols. On each front corner there is a massive pilaster of the Doric order. The bays of the left side

are divided by matching pilasters, also of the Doric order. In each bay, between the columns and pilasters, are located large windows at each of the two floors with stamped metal panels dividing the floors.

Supported immediately on top of the columns and pilasters is an entablature borrowed from the Tuscan order. The building is finally crowned by a balustrade mounted on top of the entablature.

A unique feature of this building is the fact that even though it is an outstanding example of Classic Revival Architecture, it is not a pure example of any one classical style. In designing this building the architect borrowed different elements from many classical orders; Doric, Tuscan, Roman and Ionic. Another interesting feature of the building is the balustrade. This is an element that is completely foreign to Classical Architecture but harmonizes well with the total building. The architect has successfully blended many varied elements so that they effectively complement one another to create an exciting and interesting structure.